

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The case was presented with claims 1-12, claim 1 being independent.

This amendment amends independent claim 1 and adds new claims 13-16, claims 13 and 15 being independent.

The Official Action objected to claim 9. Claim 9 has been responsively amended.

The Official Action rejected claim 11 under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 11 has been amended in a manner which is believed to remedy the stated basis of rejection. Should this amendment not prove satisfactory, it is requested that a satisfactory amendment be suggested. Withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

The originally filed claims stand rejected as anticipated by SANO et al. 5,514,888.

Amended claim 1 recites the logic circuit part comprising a plurality of transistors to manipulate a signal produced from the photoelectric conversion part. In contrast, the transfer gate of SANO et al., which the Official Action reads as being part of "logic circuit part", merely transfers the electric charges generated by the photoelectric conversion region.

Therefore, the transfer gate of SANO et al. does not have any transistor. Indeed, SANO et al. thus teach away from the present invention.

The applied references failing to disclose each recited feature of the invention thus fail to anticipate.

New claims 13-16 have been added to recite the invention in a manner believed patentable over the prior art and particularly over SANO et al.

Note the recitation of a photoelectric conversion part converting incident light to an electrical charge and further converting the electrical charge into an electrical signal. Note the recitation concerning the logic circuit part receiving and handling the electrical signal.

The claim recites both the photoelectric conversion part and the logic circuit part (which receives and handles the electrical signal) as being on the same semiconductor substrate.

Lastly, claim 13 recites a light shielding layer covering the logic circuit part and a light shielding film covering the photoelectric conversion part, wherein the light shielding film is provided at a height closer to the semiconductor substrate than the light shielding layer.

These claims are not all found in the reference and are believed to patentably recite the present invention.

Independent claim 15 recites the invention more specifically. See the recitations of the first circuit part and the second circuit part producing a digital signal and performing signal processing on the digital signal. Again, see that these first and second circuit parts as well as the image signal part are formed on the same semiconductor substrate.

Claim 15 likewise recites a first light shielding layer covering the image sensor part and a second light shielding layer covering the first and second circuit parts, where the first light shielding layer is provided closer to the semiconductor substrate than the second light shielding layer.

These features not being found in the applied reference, allowance is solicited.

The dependent claims are also believed to patentably recite the present invention.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

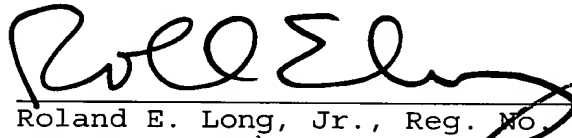
Should there be any remaining outstanding matters, it is requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted so that these can be resolved and the case passed to allowance.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

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